

25 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: COLONEL WHERITT B. BOOTH
The Department of State

Subject: CIA's Position on Proposed NSCID No. 8

1. With reference to our conversation the other afternoon, and also with reference to the unsigned copy of a suggested memorandum entitled "Exploitation of Russian Language Periodicals (other than daily press)", I have again talked over with the working people in our shop, the proposed NSCID No. 8 of March 3, 1948, entitled "Foreign Document Exploitation" and the suggested changes attached to your voting slip of March 16, 1948.

2. CIA's position is set forth below, and I should appreciate it if you would give it consideration as we feel your suggested limitation will work against your own best interests as well as against CIA's:

a. With reference to State's voting slip of March 16, 1948, enclosing a memo of amendments to the redrafted NSCID No. 8, this proposal in the first instance was initiated to confirm a service of common concern being performed by CIA for and at the request of the Army. It was thought that it could be advantageously extended from captured documents to press and periodicals, and thus be of more use to all of the IAC agencies. State's workers in this field are said to want this situation established.

b. If the changes suggested are made in paragraphs 1(b) and 2(b), CIA's understanding is that the cataloging, abstracting, indexing and translating, even though required for national intelligence, could be based upon only a prior agreement with the IAC Agencies and would thus be limited. If such an agreement could now be reached in an NSCID for the overall project, it would not be necessary to have an IAC or similar meeting each time a part of this project is to be undertaken.

c. As written, CIA endeavored to indicate that the cataloging, abstracting, etc., would be done by this Agency for national intelligence and that other somewhat similar work could be done by CIA by agreement with the other Agencies. (Due to budgetary limitations, they constantly have asked CIA to do such things.)

d. If State thinks it is necessary to limit this work to prior agreements each time, CIA thinks it unnecessary to issue an NSCID, as with that limitation, it would serve no useful purpose to have an NSCID. Since all of the other Agencies have agreed to the redraft of No. 8, CIA would appreciate State's giving it reconsideration. Experiences have shown that if formal agreement is required from all IAC Agencies, the work of CIA is greatly slowed down and delayed to the extent of 2 - 6 months per agreement.

e. NSCID No. 1, Paragraphs 1 and 8 are not changed, nor, of course, is Paragraph 7; but if some Agencies want services performed and others do not, some sort of solution should be reached.

3. Telephone me if I have not made myself clear, or if you have any other questions. *suggestion*

PRESGOTT CHILDS
CHIEF, ICAPS

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*Mar 12/1947
No reply received*

PC/ml1

cc: Central Records